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# **North Dakota Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Summary**



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

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## **NORTH DAKOTA**

**Missouri dam releases could hurt fisheries.** Fishery managers in North Dakota and South Dakota are nervous about anticipated high water releases from upstream dams on the Missouri River in the summer of 2011. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has said 2011 could be a year of record runoff into the river system that stretches from the mountains in Montana to Missouri, where it empties into the Mississippi River. The Fort Peck, Lake Sakakawea, and Lake Oahe upper basin reservoirs are all but full, and dam releases this summer are expected to be higher than they have been in 14 years, The Bismarck Tribune reported. Fisheries officials in the Dakotas are worried about the effect on rainbow smelt, a main food for game fish such as walleye, when summer releases hit the projected range of 49,000-54,000 cubic feet per second. "In 1997, summer releases were in the upper 50s and a very large proportion of Oahe's rainbow smelt population were lost downstream," the fisheries chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department said. The fisheries chief is worried about the smelt population and also bank erosion, with Lake Sakakawea forecast to reach an elevation slightly above 1,852 feet above sea level. Source: [http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/article\\_32081b1b-9f6b-5b27-a712-cae7c4622d28.html](http://www.siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/article_32081b1b-9f6b-5b27-a712-cae7c4622d28.html)

**Two wind turbines suffer damage.** Two wind turbines in central North Dakota sustained damage the week of April 25 and will remain idle until repair crews can reach them. A turbine located about one mile south on 93rd Street, Wilton, owned by Nextera Energy of Florida was bent and needs to be replaced, a company spokesman said. The damage occurred late April 28 or early April 29, a spokesman said. —We're investigating its cause, he said of the damage. The damaged tower feeds Basin Electric customers, but Nextera owns, operates, and is liable for them. A separate tower's blade about 15 miles south of Minot, owned by Basin Electric, also malfunctioned and bent over itself, a Basin Electric spokesman said. He said it happened April 30 during the blizzard and windstorm. The cause was still being determined. He said the blades were designed to adjust to their angles according to wind speeds. Towers will stop rotating if wind speeds exceed 55 mph. He noted one blade measures 121 feet long and weighs 7 tons. He said the cost to replace one of the blades is \$150,000 plus labor and equipment expenses for replacing and installing the equipment. Source: [http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/local/article\\_2e01a366-7506-11e0-a617-001cc4c03286.html](http://www.bismarcktribune.com/news/local/article_2e01a366-7506-11e0-a617-001cc4c03286.html)

## **REGIONAL**

**(Minnesota) Lino Lakes officer hospitalized after accidental shooting.** A Lino Lakes, Minnesota, police officer was hospitalized May 5 after an accidental shooting at a Coon Rapids gun range. The 26-year-old was hit in the stomach while participating in a training exercise at the Anoka County Law Enforcement Range. He underwent surgery at Hennepin County Medical Center, and was upgraded from critical to serious condition May 5. The Anoka County Sheriff's Office said three officers were firing when the accident happened around 4:30 p.m. A bullet reportedly ricocheted, hitting him between his belt buckle and bullet-proof vest. Authorities do not know whether the bullet came from the officer's gun or someone else's. After he was shot, the officer was able to call his wife and tell her

what happened. The Coon Rapids Police Department is investigating the accident, with help from the bureau of criminal apprehension. Source: <http://kstp.com/news/stories/S2098663.shtml?cat=1>

## **NATIONAL**

**Record flooding still in forecast after levee breach.** The intentional breach of a levee on the Mississippi River is helping to ease unprecedented flood pressure on other areas, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said. The Ohio River level had dropped about 1.7 feet at Cairo, Illinois, since May 2, before the blast, but that is expected to level off May 4. The breach, created when engineers detonated explosives the night of May 2 at Birds Point, Missouri, is sending 396,000 cubic feet of water per second onto 200 square miles of fertile Missouri farmland. A second levee blast was conducted the afternoon of May 3 at New Madrid, Missouri, and a third is planned May 4 near Hickman, Kentucky. The second and third blasts, downstream of Birds Point, will allow floodwater to return to the Mississippi River. While the plan appeared to be working — the level of the Ohio River fell where it joins the Mississippi — record crests and relentless pressure from millions of gallons of water still threatened communities throughout the Mississippi and Ohio river valleys. Vicksburg, Mississippi, could see water levels rise 4 feet by May 8. Authorities told residents of Caruthersville, Missouri, that sandbags may not be enough to control the water. The town of Cairo remained under a mandatory evacuation despite the intentional breach, while six other communities were under voluntary evacuation notices, said a spokeswoman for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Even with the levee breach, the National Weather Service continues to predict record or near-record flooding in parts of southern Illinois, southwest Indiana, western Kentucky, and Tennessee, southeastern Missouri, northeastern Arkansas, and parts of Mississippi, and Louisiana. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/05/04/missouri.levee.breach/index.html?hpt=T2>

**(Georgia) Storm damage cost estimate: \$75 million.** The deadly storms and tornadoes that ripped through Georgia the week of April 25 caused at least \$75 million in insured losses, the Georgia Insurance Commissioner said May 2. State officials predict that figure will rise in coming weeks as the scope of the damage becomes clear and homeowners and businesses file claims. The commissioner said his office arrived at the figure after surveying the top 10 insurance companies in Georgia, which represent about 75 percent of the state insurance market. But residents and claims adjusters are only now starting to assess the damage in the more devastated areas of northwest Georgia, where authorities spent the first few days searching for victims and clearing debris. Ringgold, a town of about 3,000 located 17 miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee was hit hardest: eight people died, at least 75 homes were destroyed and scores of businesses and other structures were blown away. Overall, the storms killed more than 300 people across six states in the South. Source: [http://www.ajc.com/news/storm-damage-cost-estimate-932411.html?cxntlid=brkng\\_nws\\_bnr](http://www.ajc.com/news/storm-damage-cost-estimate-932411.html?cxntlid=brkng_nws_bnr)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

**Morocco arrests 3 for Marrakesh bombing, alleges al-Qaeda link, Pais says.** Moroccan police probing the April 28 bombing of a Marrakesh restaurant frequented by tourists arrested three suspects “including the main perpetrator of the terrorist act,” El Pais reported, citing a government statement. The main suspect in the attack that left 16 people dead and 24 injured, had a “jihadist ideology and links to al-Qaeda,” the report said, citing the Interior Ministry statement. The individual once tried to emigrate to Chechnya and Iraq and learned to make bombs on the Internet, the report

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said. Moroccan investigators are receiving help from the FBI, Scotland Yard, French antiterrorist officials, and Spain's Tedax bombing experts, the newspaper said. Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-06/morocco-arrests-3-for-marrakesh-bombing-alleges-al-qaeda-link-pais-says.html>

Backpack provokes alert at US embassy in Slovenia. Slovenian police said a man May 4 threw a backpack into the U.S. embassy compound in the capital Ljubljana, triggering a bomb alert. No explosives were found. Police said they detained a 29-year old man from the eastern town of Krsko on suspicion of throwing the bag. Police cordoned off the area around the embassy and destroyed the backpack. Security has been stepped up at American and other Western embassies throughout the world after U.S. troops killed the leader of al-Qa'ida. Source:

[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2014951921\\_apeusloveniausbombalert.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/nationworld/2014951921_apeusloveniausbombalert.html)

**Sellafield nuclear site terror suspects released.** Five men arrested close to the Sellafield nuclear site in Cumbria, England, under Britain's Terrorism Act have been released without charge. The men, all from London and in their 20s, were arrested May 2 after a stop check on a vehicle close to the Sellafield site, in Cumbria. The BBC understands the men were taking photographs near the site. The North West Counter Terrorism Unit led the investigation. It was supported by Cumbria Constabulary. The men, all thought to be of Bangladeshi origin, were held in Carlisle overnight May 2 and then moved to Manchester May 3. Under Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000, a police officer can arrest anyone they "reasonably suspect" of being a terrorist. The Sellafield site is responsible for decommissioning and reprocessing nuclear waste and fuel manufacturing on behalf of England's Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13284968>

**5 arrested under terror law near British nuclear plant.** British police said May 3 they arrested five men on suspicion of terrorism near a nuclear power plant in northeastern England. The men, all in their 20s and from London, were arrested May 2 close to the Sellafield nuclear facility after police officers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary conducted a —stop check on their vehicle, Cumbria Constabulary said. Cumbria Constabulary officers arrested the men. There was no indication the incident was linked to the killing of an al Qaeda leader in Pakistan, police said. The suspects were taken to police custody in Carlisle overnight and were to be transported to Manchester May 3, police said. The suspects will be questioned by an anti-terrorism unit there, police said. They were being held under a 2000 anti-terror law that allows police to arrest suspects without a warrant and hold them for up to 48 hours without charge. Roads were closed in the area briefly at the time of the arrests May 2, authorities said. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/europe/05/03/uk.terror.arrests/?hpt=T2>

**U.S. condemns embassy attacks in Libyan capital.** The United States May 1 condemned attacks on embassies in Libya's capital, a day after officials said a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) missile strike had killed one of the sons of a Libyan leader. "We have seen reports indicating that British, Italian, and U.S. diplomatic facilities in Tripoli have been attacked," a U.S. State Department spokesman said. "If true, we condemn these attacks in the strongest possible terms." After news of the air strike April 30 spread in Tripoli, angry mobs trashed the embassies of Britain and Italy, a U.S. consular department and a United Nations office, said the Libyan deputy foreign minister. The U.S. evacuated its diplomatic staff at the start of the Libyan crisis, leaving Turkey to represent American interests in the country. The U.N. reacted to the attacks May 1 by pulling its international staff out of

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Tripoli. Britain responded by announcing it was expelling the Libyan ambassador to London. Italy had withdrawn its diplomats weeks ago. The Libyan leader's son was reportedly killed April 30 by a NATO strike on the leader's compound in Tripoli. Libyan officials denounced the strike as an assassination attempt and a violation of international law. Source:

<http://www.yankton.net/articles/2011/05/02/news/doc4dbe31a2ce9c4821519358.txt>

**U.S. raises embassy security as world on alert for bin Laden retaliation.** The United States and Australia boosted security at their embassies around the world and Interpol told its 188 member countries to be on "full alert" for attacks to avenge the killing of an al-Qaeda leader. Patrol cars, paramilitary forces, and commandos wearing bulletproof vests searched motorists and pedestrians outside the U.S. consulate in Karachi, Pakistan. "The death of [the al-Qaeda leader] does not represent the demise of al-Qaeda affiliates and those inspired by al-Qaeda, who have and will continue to engage in terrorist attacks around the world," the secretary general of Lyon, France-based Interpol said in an e-mailed statement. The U.S. President May 1 said the man died in a firefight with U.S. forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan. His death removes the leader of a group that targeted citizens of the United States and its allies in hotels, offices, and embassies around the world. The al-Qaeda leader was wanted by U.S. authorities before the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon outside Washington D.C. that killed almost 3,000 people. He was accused in connection with bombings of American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya on August 7, 1998, which killed 224 people, and linked to the October 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Aden, Yemen, which killed 17 U.S. sailors. "The Department of State has requested all U.S. embassies to go to a heightened level of alert in the wake of the news," a spokesman with the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki said. The State Department has also issued a worldwide travel alert to U.S. citizens. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-02/u-s-boosts-embassy-security-watches-for-bin-laden-retaliation.html>

## **BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY**

**UBS bank admits cheating U.S. municipalities out of millions.** Swiss bank UBS reaped millions of dollars of illegal profits by rigging at least 100 municipal bond transactions in 36 states, the U.S. government said May 4. In a settlement, UBS agreed to pay \$160 million. The case was part of an ongoing federal probe of manipulation in the market where municipalities borrow money to finance debts and pay for projects such as schools, roads, and hospitals. Instead of helping municipalities get the best deals, the federal authorities charged, UBS was cheating them. Under an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), UBS "admits, acknowledges and accepts responsibility for illegal, anticompetitive conduct" by former employees, the department said. Four former UBS executives were previously charged, and one has pleaded guilty. In December, Bank of America settled a similar case by agreeing to pay \$137 million. The broader investigation includes the Securities and Exchange Commission, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service, bank regulators and state attorneys general. UBS's offenses occurred from 2001 through 2006, the DOJ said. After issuing tax-exempt bonds, municipalities ordinarily invest the proceeds until they are ready to spend. UBS was involved in the process by which they selected temporary investments. It was supposed to involve arms-length competition, but UBS used techniques to rig the bidding and extract large profit margins, the government alleged. In some cases, UBS gave favored bidders information on competing bids. In other cases, it arranged for certain parties to make purposefully losing bids to help other parties win.



Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/ubs-bank-admits-cheating-us-municipalities-out-of-millions/2011/05/04/AFLa3trF\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/ubs-bank-admits-cheating-us-municipalities-out-of-millions/2011/05/04/AFLa3trF_story.html)

**Phishing scheme uses FDIC.** The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) has received numerous reports from business owners about fraudulent e-mails that purport to be from the FDIC. The e-mail appears to be sent from alert@fdic.gov and includes the subject line: FDIC: Your business account. According to the FDIC, the e-mail, addressed to “Business Owners,” reads: “We have important information about your bank. Please click here to see information ...This includes information on the acquiring bank [if applicable], how your accounts and loans are affected and how vendors can file claims against the receivership.” The FDIC noted it does not issue unsolicited e-mails to consumers or business account holders. But the scheme is yet another example of how phishers are perfecting their techniques, by taking advantage of trusted sources such as the FDIC, and preying on the fears of business owners during a time of continual bank failures, and ACH/wire fraud incidents. Source: [http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art\\_id=3602](http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3602)

**Bin Laden death may limit terror financing.** The death of the head of al-Qa’ida may limit terrorism financing, a top U.S. President’s administration official said May 3. “The death of [the al-Qa’ida leader] is a tremendously important step, and it takes away a person who, at minimum, as a symbol, was helpful in raising terrorism money,” the Treasury Department’s assistant secretary for terrorist financing, told lawmakers on the Senate Banking Committee. He argued that even with bin Laden’s death, there has been an expansion of the franchising of al-Qa’ida networks in the Middle East and in North Africa. However, he also argued that Treasury’s efforts to limit terrorism financing have notched some successes, in part because of the department’s engagement and sharing of information with foreign governments, foreign central banks, and foreign intelligence units. “The success we’ve had with al-Qa’ida has been something that has developed over a number of years by both taking targeted actions against facilitators moving money as well as dedicated engagement with counterparts in the gulf to identify the networks where the money is raised and moved into Pakistan and it has really put a fair amount of financial pressure on al-Qa’ida,” he said. Source: [http://www.marketwatch.com/story/bin-laden-death-may-limit-terror-financing-2011-05-03?link=MW\\_latest\\_news](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/bin-laden-death-may-limit-terror-financing-2011-05-03?link=MW_latest_news)

**Deutsche Bank faces U.S. mortgage fraud lawsuit.** The United States sued Deutsche Bank AG May 3, accusing the German bank and its MortgageIT Inc unit of repeatedly lying to be included in a federal program to select mortgages to be insured by the government. In a civil complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, New York, the government said that defendants recklessly chose mortgages that violated program rules—in blatant disregard of whether borrowers could make mortgage payments. The lawsuit seeks triple damages and other penalties for violations of the federal False Claims Act. According to the complaint, MortgageIT from 1999 to 2009 endorsed in excess of 39,000 mortgages with principal totaling more than \$5 billion for Federal Housing Administration insurance, meaning they were backed by the federal government. The government said the defendants profited from the resale of the mortgages, even as thousands of U.S. homeowners faced default and eviction. It said it has paid out more than \$386 million of FHA insurance claims and related costs, and expects to pay out hundreds of millions of dollars more. —Deutsche Bank and MortgageIT had powerful financial incentives to invest resources into generating as many FHA-insured mortgages as quickly as possible for resale to investors, the complaint said. —By contrast, Deutsche Bank and MortgageIT had few financial incentives to invest resources into ensuring the quality of its FHA-insured

mortgages. Source: [http://newsandinsight.thomsonreuters.com/Legal/News/2011/05\\_May/Deutsche Bank faces U S mortgage fraud lawsuit/](http://newsandinsight.thomsonreuters.com/Legal/News/2011/05_May/Deutsche_Bank_faces_U_S_mortgage_fraud_lawsuit/)

**POS skimming scam stopped.** Waterloo, Canada, Regional Police have arrested two Toronto men for the role they played in a card-skimming scam that bypasses the Europay, MasterCard, Visa chip-based security standard. The scheme involves swapping legitimate PIN pads or card readers at merchant locations with bogus readers that have been manipulated to collect card numbers. When debit or credit cards are inserted or swiped, their card numbers are collected and stored on the reader. In some cases, numbers are actually transmitted wirelessly, to criminals who are waiting nearby. The scheme is effective at compromising magnetic-stripe and EMV-compliant chip cards, said a financial-security consultant. —They get around EMV by disabling the part of the POS device that reads the chip, he says. —So, then the customer is forced to swipe the mag-stripe to make the transaction. It's not until after the customer swipes the card that the clerk realizes the reader is inoperable. But by then, however, it is too late; the fraudsters have the card details. In this case, Waterloo Regional Police stopped the attack before many cards were compromised. A customer at an unnamed retail location contacted police April 19 after seeing two men in the store handling the checkout counter's card reader. The two men face charges of theft, mischief, attempting to defraud the public, possession of instruments used to forge credit cards, and conspiracy to commit fraud. Source: [http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art\\_id=3592](http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3592)

**(New Jersey) Authorities seize \$1.2 billion in counterfeit documents, arrest 2.** Two men who tried to sell more than \$1 trillion in counterfeit U.S. Treasury notes to undercover sheriff's officers were arrested, authorities said April 29. The arrests were the culmination of a sting operation at a Bergen County, New Jersey hotel April 28 that authorities said involved numerous officers, including one who posed as a bartender to gain the suspects' trust. Around \$1.2 billion in fake U.S. Treasury notes was found in the suspects' possession at the time of their arrest, the Bergen County sheriff said, though the two claimed they could produce hundreds of billions of dollars more in similar counterfeit notes. Both men were charged with money laundering and financial facilitation in the first degree, theft by deception, conspiracy, and forgery. After investigators initiated contact, the suspects told them they were willing to sell more than a trillion dollars in U.S. Treasury notes at a fraction of their value, the sheriff said. After some negotiation, both sides agreed to meet April 28 to complete the deal. By the time the suspects arrived, more than a dozen undercover officers were posing as security guards, limo drivers, and prospective buyers. Source: [http://www.northjersey.com/news/bergen/042911 Authorities seize 12 billion in counterfeit documents arrest 2.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/bergen/042911_Authorities_seize_12_billion_in_counterfeit_documents_arrest_2.html)

## **CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR**

**NRC chief says nuke agency to look at flood risk.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said flood protection plans for U.S. nuclear plants may need to be upgraded in the wake of the Japanese nuclear crisis. The NRC chairman said May 2 that severe flooding from the March 11 tsunami was a "dominant cause" of the disaster in Japan. The NRC cited a nuclear plant in Nebraska in 2010 for having an inadequate flood safety plan. The flooding problem at the Fort Calhoun plant, on the banks of the Missouri River, has since been addressed, although the plant is one of three U.S. nuclear plants deemed in need of increased oversight from federal regulators because of safety problems or unplanned shutdowns. Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9MVI1T81.htm>



## **COMMERCIAL FACILITIES**

(Florida; Oklahoma) **FBI: Fla. mosque bombing suspect fatally shot.** A man wanted in the bombing of a Jacksonville, Florida mosque was shot and killed May 4 when he brandished a weapon as agents tried to serve an arrest warrant in northwest Oklahoma, FBI officials said. The 46-year-old St. Johns County, Florida man pulled out a firearm as federal and state law enforcement officers approached him in a field at Glass Mountain State Park near Orienta, Oklahoma, and asked him to surrender, an FBI special agent said. The special agent said the FBI learned late May 3 the suspect was staying in a tent in the park. An Oklahoma City FBI SWAT team and other law enforcement officers blocked off the area overnight, the special agent said. Because of the nature of the bombing, agents were concerned there may have been an explosive device in the area, but no bombs had been found as of the afternoon of May 4, a spokesman from the FBI's Oklahoma City office said. The suspect was facing several federal charges, including damage to religious property and possession of a destructive device, in connection with the May 10, 2010, bombing of the Islamic Center of Northeast Florida in Jacksonville. No one was hurt in that explosion, but authorities found remnants of a crude pipe bomb at the scene, and shrapnel from the blast was found 100 yards away. Source:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/05/04/fbi-fla-mosque-bombing-suspect-fatally-shot/>

(Pennsylvania) **Bomb threat closes downtown Lancaster.** Downtown Lancaster City, Pennsylvania, was shut down for several hours May 2 as local, state, and federal authorities responded to a reported bomb threat in a parking garage. The Lancaster Police Department issued a statement that said several sweeps of the Prince Street Garage by Pennsylvania State Police collected evidence for additional forensic processing. "As part of this evidence collection a vehicle was removed from the garage," the statement said. "This vehicle was in close proximity to the area where the police K9s gave a positive indication" Several streets that had been shut down reopened around noon, and people who were evacuated at 4 a.m. were allowed to head home. Police said the trouble began when an anonymous call reporting a possible explosive device came in around 3 a.m. Police said information received during the call is connected to an on-going federal investigation that has been going on in the city for several days. The Lancaster City police chief called the investigation "complex" but gave no further details. After the call came in, a K-9 from the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office searched and sniffed the garage. Police said the dog hit on something. At 4 a.m. the surrounding area was evacuated, but by 11:45 a.m. a secondary search of the garage by state police K-9's came up negative and streets were reopened. Source: <http://www.whptv.com/news/local/story/UPDATE-11-Bomb-threat-closes-downtown-Lancaster/wMQrQiyzSEy7BLYTWEhfbQ.csp>

**Landlords watch for individual threats after Osama bin Laden's death.** Following the death of the head of al-Qa'ida, DHS told landlords and property management companies to be on the lookout for threats from retaliating lone wolves, rather than well-organized groups, in an advisory released May 1. The Building Owners and Managers Association International started an international emergency preparedness committee after September 11, 2001, that communicates directly with the DHS, acting as a sounding board for the agency and as a information distribution network for landlords. The executive vice president of The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington Inc. said the group received an intelligence and warning document from DHS May 1 after the White House announced the al-Qa'ida leader had been killed. "In plain speak, it said they are encouraging increased awareness and vigilance, but are not aware of any current threat streams,"

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she said. She said the building owners and management groups have been in contact with real estate companies across the country gauging their responses to the news. As a rule, most companies are not changing their security measures yet, she said. Rather, they are reviewing existing plans, talking with tenants, and focusing on increased vigilance. Source:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/washington/blog/2011/05/landlords-watch-for-individual-threats.html>

**(Massachusetts) 2 suspicious letters delivered to Boston buildings.** Crews responded to two different office buildings in Boston, Massachusetts, after reports of suspicious letters — one where the attorney general's office is and the other where a U.S. Senator's office is located. On May 3 around 11:20 a.m., police and hazmat crews responded to the John W. McCormack Building One Ashburton Place. Authorities said a letter containing a white powdery substance arrived at the attorney general's office. About an hour later just a few streets away, there was the same story. This time, the letter with the white powder was delivered to the Senator's office on the 24th floor on the John F. Kennedy Federal Building. "Looks like the same type of handwriting, so it's probably the same scribble inside with whatever threat," said the district chief of the Boston Fire Department. In both cases the powder tested to be harmless. At both locations, no one was evacuated or needed medical treatment. The powder has been sent to the state lab for further testing. Source:

<http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/boston/12004213709260/suspicious-letter-delivered-to-boston-building/>

**(Connecticut) Stamford teens arrested with explosives, bomb-making materials.** Three teenagers were arrested April 29 when Stamford, Connecticut patrol officers pulled over a car and found what police said were improvised explosive devices among a cache of weapons and bomb-making materials. In addition to also discovering pellet and paintball guns in the vehicle, police found gasoline, glass bottles, and lighter fluid — materials that could be used to create Molotov cocktails, a Stamford police captain said. The teens were arrested in the Springdale neighborhood, where police stepped up patrols and surveillance the week of April 25 after a Molotov cocktail was thrown against a wall on Gaymoor Drive and extinguished by firefighters, police said. Source:

<http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/article/Stamford-teens-arrested-with-explosives-1361688.php>

**(Illinois) 2 injured in shooting outside central Ill. mall.** Police said two people were injured May 1 in a shooting outside of a mall in Champaign, Illinois. The News-Gazette in Champaign reported police went to the mall after receiving a report of multiple shots fired. The police chief said that when officers arrived, they found one person shooting at another in the parking lot. A police spokeswoman said two officers shot the shooter. Both of the people who were injured were hospitalized. The police chief said one is a suspect and one is a victim. Three or four people were taken into custody. Police said there is nothing to indicate any shots were fired inside the mall. Police do not have a motive for the shooting. Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-mallshooting-illi,0,5232778.story>

## **COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR**

**Amazon cloud outage was triggered by configuration error.** Amazon has released a detailed analysis and apology about the partial outage of its cloud services platform the week of April 25 and identified the culprit: A configuration error made during a network upgrade. During this configuration change, a

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traffic shift “was executed incorrectly,” Amazon said, noting traffic that should have gone to a primary network was routed to a lower capacity one instead. The error occurred at 12:47 p.m. April 21 and led to a partial outage that lingered through the week of April 25. The outage sent a number of prominent Web sites offline, including Quora, Foursquare, and Reddit, and renewed an industry-wide debate over the maturity of cloud services. Amazon posted updates throughout the outage, but what it offered in its postmortem is entirely different. The nearly 5,700-word document includes a detailed look at what happened, an apology, a credit to affected customers, as well as a commitment to improve its customer communications. Amazon did not say explicitly whether it was human error that touched off the event, but hints at that possibility when it wrote that “we will audit our change process and increase the automation to prevent this mistake from happening in the future.” The initial mistake, followed by the subsequent increase in network load, exposed a cascading series of issues, including a “re-mirroring storm” with systems continuously searching for a storage space.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216303/Amazon\\_cloud\\_outage\\_was\\_triggered\\_by\\_configuration\\_error](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216303/Amazon_cloud_outage_was_triggered_by_configuration_error)

## **CRITICAL MANUFACTURING**

**Kohler recalls engines sold with Husqvarna, Cub Cadet, and Troy-Bilt riding lawn tractors; laceration hazard posed.** Kohler Co., of Kohler, Wisconsin, has issued a recall May 5 for about 10,000 Kohler Courage Engines. A wire connector on the engine can become disconnected causing the operator’s seat switch to fail. When this happens, the blades will not shut down, posing a laceration hazard to consumers. No incidents or injuries have been reported. The recall involves Kohler Courage twin-cylinder engines sold with three brands of lawn tractors: Husqvarna, Cub Cadet, and Troy-Bilt. The lawn tractors that contain the recalled engines were sold at Lowe’s, Tractor Supply Company stores, and by authorized Cub Cadet dealers nationwide from February 2011 through April 2011. Source:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml11/11215.html>

**GM recalls 2011 Cruze cars to inspect steering shaft.** General Motors Co. (GM) is recalling 154,112 of its top-selling Chevrolet Cruze compact cars to check that the steering shaft was properly installed, the automaker said May 4. These cars represent all of the Cruze cars built at its plant in Lordstown, Ohio, from the start of production during the summer of 2010 through April 21, 2011, when changes at the plant were completed to keep the issue from reoccurring, GM said. The cars were sold in the United States and Canada since September 2010. Of those vehicles, more than 120,000 with an automatic transmission will also be inspected to ensure the transmission shift linkage was properly installed, GM said. “Very few” of the vehicles should have either problem, and GM has made quality process changes to ensure neither error happens again, GM’s vice president of global quality said in a statement. A GM spokesman said the wider steering shaft issue was discovered when a customer lost steering control in a parking lot, but did not have an accident. The issue regarding Cruze models with automatic transmissions was discovered when customers brought in their cars under warranty, GM said. GM said no accidents or injuries had been reported. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/05/us-gm-cruze-idUSTRE7437Y420110505>

**Manufacturers not investing in supply chain risk management.** In the wake of earthquakes and tsunamis in Japan, tornadoes across the American South, and various and sundry disruptive forces, manufacturers’ investment in supply chain risk management is “pathetically low,” says a new report

from SCM consultancy ChainLink Research, Managing Automation reported May 3. In a survey conducted in late March and early April, a chief research officer found that more than 45 percent of companies devote less than \$50,000 each year to “assessing and auditing supplier and supply chain risk.” The total spend was defined as money spent on labor, IT, services, travel, and other costs related to a supply chain risk program. ChainLink did not specify the number or size of companies surveyed. About 24 percent of respondents said they spend \$50,000 to \$250,000, while the same percentage devote \$250,000 to \$1 million to such efforts. Just 5 percent spend more than \$1 million, and none of the companies surveyed spend more than \$3 million per year. In part, that may be because responsibility for supply chain risk assessment falls disproportionately on lower-level managers, who may not have the budgeting power to prioritize supply chain risk mitigation. Source: [http://www.managingautomation.com/maonline/exclusive/read/Manufacturers\\_Not\\_Investing\\_in\\_Supply\\_Chain\\_Risk\\_Management\\_27756882](http://www.managingautomation.com/maonline/exclusive/read/Manufacturers_Not_Investing_in_Supply_Chain_Risk_Management_27756882)

**GM SUVs probed for bad fuel gauges.** Federal regulators are investigating 865,000 General Motors Co. sport utility vehicles for potential faulty fuel gauges that could mistakenly tell drivers their vehicles have more gas than they do, Reuters reported May 2. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said on its Web site it opened a preliminary investigation covering Chevrolet Trailblazers, GMC Envoys, Buick Rainiers, and Saab 9-7s from model years 2005-2007 after receiving 668 complaints alleging inaccurate fuel gauge readings. Of the complaints over the weekend of April 30, 58 incidents were alleged to result in a vehicle stall and 43 of those occurred because the fuel level reading indicated more fuel than what was actually in the tank, NHTSA said. NHTSA said the complaints show an apparent increasing trend, with most complaints received within the past year. It added it has opened preliminary probes for Ford Motor Co. and Honda Motor Co. Ltd. vehicles. NHTSA received 18 complaints concerning the liftgate glass on the rear doors or hatches on 200,000 Ford SUVs. The reports said the liftgate glass on Ford Escapes and Mercury Mariners for model years 2010 and 2011 could spontaneously shatter when the liftgate was opened or closed. Many of the incidents occurred during cooler temperatures. The safety agency also said it opened an investigation covering 288,000 Honda CR-V SUVs from model years 2002 to 2004 for complaints the headlights stopped working. NHTSA said it has received 12 complaints alleging both low-beam headlights stopped working simultaneously. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42857117/ns/business-autos>

## **DEFENSE/ INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR**

**Air Force grounds entire F-22 fleet.** The U.S. Air Force has grounded all of its F-22 Raptors until further notice because of potential malfunctions in the fighter jets’ oxygen-generation system. The commander of Air Combat Command (ACC) ordered a stand-down of the 165-plane fleet May 3, an ACC spokeswoman said. She did not immediately know how long the Raptors will be out of service. The On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS) has been under investigation since an F-22 crashed in November just outside Elmendorf Air Force Base in Alaska. Until the stand-down, Raptor sorties had been restricted to an altitude of 25,000 feet or below for training missions because of the potential malfunctions. The limits were “designed for mishap prevention and is a prudent measure to ensure the OBOGS are operating safely,” an ACC spokesman said in March, when the command first publicly disclosed the investigation. An OBOGS malfunction can be potentially life-threatening, according to a subject matter expert. Source: <http://www.militarytimes.com/news/2011/05/airforce-grounds-entire-f22-fleet-050511w/>

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**(Georgia) Thieves break into dozens of Georgia police cruisers.** DeKalb, Georgia police are investigating how thieves were able to break into 36 police vehicles that were sitting in the county's maintenance yard. A supervisor arrived April 29 to find trunk lids open, shattered windows, and popped locks. He still does not know how the thieves got in. The lot is surrounded by metal fencing and gates. It was supposedly being patrolled by a county contracted ABM security guard at the time. But, a Channel 2 investigative reporter obtained records showing the guard arrived 2 hours late that night. Officers were told to remove their guns and other items when they leave their cars at the maintenance lot. Out of 36 cars, the thieves got away with a few radios, one police jacket, a laptop, GPS, and a camera, police said. The fleet manager said there should not be any cost to taxpayers, because the county plans to go through the security company's insurance to pay for the repairs. Source: <http://www.officer.com/news/10262410/thieves-break-into-dozens-of-georgia-police-cruisers>

**Network-based tracking gives law enforcement alternative to GPS.** Assisted Global Position Satellite system tracking (A-GPS) has been around for more than a decade and has been used effectively by police and government entities to keep tabs on potential suspects. But network-based tracking, which uses signals from cell towers, is steadily improving and quickly moving to the forefront in surveillance operations. Unlike A-GPS, which some cell phone users can recognize and stop by tampering with the GPS chip in their device, network-based tracking using cell towers cannot be detected by cellular users. GPS tracking is still useful however, according to a telecommunications industry analyst. He said both network-based and GPS systems perform well, although their usage should depend on the situation. While surveillance operations typically require warrants before tracking suspects, the ability to track without detection is a useful tool during investigations, giving law enforcement a head start on observing and apprehending a potential criminal. Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Network-Based-Tracking-042911.html>

**(Iowa) 900 fire departments impacted by change.** A new reporting system for Iowa's 900 fire departments is expected to provide far more information about fires across the state. The Web-based reporting system, called Fire Bridge, will allow fire departments to report their fires without any extra software or equipment. Officials said Iowa fire departments are required by state law to report all fire call responses to provide data to the U.S. Fire Administration. Officials said that currently, only 38 percent of the 900 departments report fire calls to the state fire marshal. Other states that have switched to a Web-based reporting system have seen reporting increase from 30 percent to 97 percent. Officials said collecting accurate fire data is necessary for the state fire marshal and the Fire Service of Iowa to identify fire causes and risks, and to develop fire prevention strategies. Source: <http://www.kcci.com/news/27707118/detail.html>

## **ENERGY**

**PHMSA releases 2011 report on hazmat incidents.** The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has released an online report ranking both the top hazardous materials and

transportation processes that were related to serious incidents and fatalities from 2005 to 2009, Courier Carrier Journal reported May 2. The Top Consequence Hazardous Materials Commodities Report is part of a series of steps that will help PHMSA identify areas of concern, target risks for particular types of hazardous materials, and plan how to mitigate future incidents. The report's data also will help educate enforcement authorities, inspectors, and first responders on trends in the transport of hazmat, which will help them set priorities to better deal with the materials and modes of transportation that could have the most damaging effects. Source:

<http://www.ccidigital.com/phmsa-releases-2011-report-on-hazmat-incidents/>

## **FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**USDA issues salad recall for possible Salmonella contamination.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Safety and Inspection Service announced a recall of ready-to-eat salads because of a possible Salmonella contamination. Taylor Farms Pacific, located in Tracy, California, recalled approximately 22,000 pounds of ready-to-eat fresh salad products that contain meat and poultry because the grape tomatoes used in these products may be contaminated with Salmonella. The problem was discovered when Taylor was notified by its tomato supplier, Six L's, that a specific lot of grape tomatoes may have been contaminated. The products subject to recall were produced from April 20-24, 2011, and were sent to distribution centers in Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and Washington for further distribution to retail stores. Source:

<http://www.ktnv.com/story/14576074/usda-issues-salad-recall-for-possible-salmonella-contamination>

**(Washington) Processing problem prompts canned seafood recall.** Quinault Tribal Enterprise of Taholah, Washington, issued a canned seafood recall, Food Safety News reported May 3. The company recalled canned salmon, smoked and non-smoked; tuna, smoked and non-smoked; smoked sturgeon; minced razor clams; smoked razor clams; and smoked steelhead, because the seafood was not adequately processed and may pose a risk for Botulism. Canned seafood that is not processed following the FDA's low-acid canned food regulations may be contaminated with harmful micro-organisms that can cause serious and possibly life-threatening illness. This issue was found during FDA inspection at Quinault Tribal Enterprises, which is cooperating with FDA in conducting the recall. No illnesses have been reported. The recalled products were packaged in metal cans in various sizes (5 oz., 6 oz., 6.5 oz., and 7 oz.) and labeled under the Quinault Pride or Quinault Tribal Enterprises brand. They were distributed nationwide through distributors and retail stores. All manufacturing codes are subject to the recall. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/05/processing-problem-prompts-canned-seafood-recall/>

**(California) Salmonella scare prompts grape tomato recall.** Taylor Farms Pacific, Inc., a California-based food supplier for six retail chain stores, announced May 2 the recall of grape tomatoes produced by a grower who said the vegetables might be contaminated with salmonella. The recall applies to 29 brand-packaged salads sold at Albertson's, Raley's, Sam's Club, Savemart, Signature Cafe, and Wal-Mart. The affected products have expiration dates ranging from April 27 to May 9, according to the news release. The recall applies to 13 states including Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and



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Wyoming, according to a spreadsheet attached to the news release. Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/US/05/03/tomato.recall/index.html?hpt=T2>

**One of Walmart's Great Value Soups recalled nationwide.** Bay Valley Foods LLC of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, recalled 188,181 pounds of Walmart's Great Value Reduced Sodium Chicken Noodle Condensed Soup from 36 states and Puerto Rico because the cans may contain a different soup that has milk in it, said the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Cow's milk is one of the top eight allergens that account for 90 percent of all food allergies, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The issue with the recalled soup is Walmart's Cream of Chicken Soup may be in the cans, and its ingredient blend includes milk. The switched soup was discovered when a consumer complained the product was incorrectly labeled. So far, neither Bay Valley nor FSIS has received reports of anyone sickened from eating the soup. Walmart said the soup went to its stores in Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Source: <http://www.walletpop.com/2011/05/02/one-of-walmarts-great-value-soups-recalled-nationwide/>

## **GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)**

**(District of Columbia) FBI probes white powder in letters sent to DC schools.** The FBI May 6 investigated more than three dozen suspicious letters containing a white powdery substance sent to schools in the Washington, D.C. area, leading authorities to race across the city to check for possible threats. No hazardous substance was found and no illnesses or injuries were reported as a result of the 37 letters found so far at 32 schools, according to the FBI's Washington field office. Four letters were found at area postal facilities, an FBI spokesman said. They appeared to be mailed from the Dallas, Texas area where investigators have been examining similar suspicious letters, the FBI said. Last October, letters that also bore a resemblance to this latest batch were received at some Washington, D.C., schools. In Washington, FBI agents, postal inspectors, and local authorities went from school to school over the course of 10 hours May 5 as new letters were discovered. The scare led to "some school evacuations and tying up hundreds of hours of police and law enforcement resources," the FBI said. The letters were sent to the FBI's lab at Quantico, Virginia, for review. While the FBI said the letters were printed rather than handwritten and not addressed to individual people, authorities declined to provide further details. Washington, D.C., public schools opened on a normal schedule May 6. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/06/us-usa-security-letters-idUSTRE7453IX20110506>

**(Wisconsin) School: Wisconsin boy brought fake bomb because of 'mean teachers'.** School officials in Waupun, Wisconsin suspended an 8-year-old boy for allegedly bringing a fake bomb to school because he had "mean teachers." The Waupun deputy chief said the boy is a third-grader at Rock River Intermediate School. She said he told fellow students May 2 he had brought a bomb to school. The bomb turned out to be a plastic eyeglasses case containing two batteries, a flashlight bulb, six nails, and a screw with a piece of thread. The boy told an investigator it was a nuclear bomb he wanted to set off in order to activate the fire alarms. The Reporter in Fond du Lac said the boy was

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suspended for 3 days. Dodge County Social Services is investigating. Source:

[http://www.twincities.com/ci\\_17998439?nclink\\_check=1](http://www.twincities.com/ci_17998439?nclink_check=1)

**(Washington) State university receives grant to create database of disaster scenarios.** As part of an ongoing effort to minimize the loss of life and property from earthquakes, two Western Washington University scientists are the recipients of a federal grant that will be used to put together an earthquake survival “tool” that will be the first of its kind in the country. A Western Washington University assistant professor of Environmental Studies and Research Associate of Western’s Resilience Institute have received a \$45,000 grant from the Washington Emergency Management Division to create and populate a digital database of 20 earthquake disaster scenarios and their potential impacts. The database will be used by statewide emergency planners and responders to develop pre-event training exercises, to understand the individual vulnerabilities of each of the 20 areas to be analyzed, and to plan for post-event operations in the wake of an event. Source:

<http://www.skyvalleychronicle.com/FEATURE-NEWS/EARTHQUAKE-br-State-university-receives-grant-to-create-database-of-disaster-scenarios-655430>

**(Massachusetts) Suspicious letter at court house in Greenfield.** The court house in Greenfield, Massachusetts, was evacuated after a letter containing an unknown substance was opened May 3. Local and state police, along with hazmat teams and the FBI, were called in to investigate. A yellow hazmat tent was set up in the back parking lot at the court house where the letter and suspicious substance were analyzed. “All tests on scene have determined no harmful substance within that letter,” the fire chief said. He said the letter was sent to the district court clerk. The court house will be open for business as usual May 4. Source: <http://www.wggb.com/Global/story.asp?S=14566929>

**(Georgia) Package draws Secret Service attention.** Due to recent world events, including the death of a terrorist, the Secret Service is not taking any potential threat lightly. A —suspicious package addressed to the U.S. President and left this week at a UPS drop box in Richmond County, Georgia, is no exception, the Augusta Chronicle reported. A UPS employee found the package May 2 at about 7 p.m. in a drop box in the 1000 block of Green Street, according to a Richmond County sheriff’s captain. The package was determined safe, but the incident was being investigated by area officials and the Secret Service. Contents of the box were not released. A return address was visible but not released by authorities. Source:

[http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/morning\\_call/2011/05/package-draws-secret-service-attention.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/morning_call/2011/05/package-draws-secret-service-attention.html)

**(Illinois) Mysterious powder closes Elgin courthouse.** The FBI will test a white powder that resulted in 28 people being held inside a building for several hours May 2 in downtown Elgin, Illinois. The people were then decontaminated and sent to local hospitals to be examined. No one was known to have been injured or sickened by the powder, authorities said. The incident began about 11:20 a.m. when a clerk inside the 2nd District Appellate Court building opened an incoming envelope that turned out to be filled with a white powder. Court officials summoned the Elgin fire and police departments, who cordoned off the area, called in more hazardous-materials equipment and personnel from as far away as Aurora, and summoned a fleet of ambulances from fire departments all over the area. A city public safety spokeswoman confirmed the envelope had been delivered by the U.S. Postal Service and contained a letter stating what the fire chief described as a —credible threat. Initial testing by Elgin’s

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hazmat team judged that the powder did not include anthrax germs, Ricin poison, or botulism poison. However, the FBI lab requires 72 hours to test such material completely, so as a precautionary measure, the courthouse will be closed for the three days. Source:

<http://beaconnews.suntimes.com/news/5145760-418/mysterious-powder-closes-elgin-courthouse.html>

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Java-based malware tries Mac-smacking cross-platform attack.** Malware-writers have developed a Java-based, equal-opportunity botnet trojan in an apparent bid to infect more machines outside the Windows ecosystem. IncognitoRAT uses source code and libraries that, in theory, allows it to attack both Windows and Mac machines. Only the Windows version of the malicious downloader has been spotted actually spreading, McAfee reports. "The original propagation vector of IncognitoRAT is a Windows executable, but apparently it was created using the tool JarToExe, which includes, among other features, the ability to convert .jar files into .exe files, to add program icons and version information, and protect and encrypt Java programs," a McAfee researcher explained. "The victim's machine has to have the Java Runtime Environment installed and must be online. As soon as the file is executed, it starts downloading a ZIP file with a pack of Java-based libraries to perform several remote activities." Once successfully executed, the malware establishes remote control of compromised systems, allowing criminal hackers to either control or extract and upload private information from compromised devices. Source:

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/06/java\\_based\\_malware/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/05/06/java_based_malware/)

**Third attack against Sony planned.** A group of hackers said it is planning another wave of cyberattacks against Sony in retaliation for its handling of the PlayStation Network breach. An observer of the Internet Relay Chat channel used by the hackers told CNET May 5 that a third major attack is planned the weekend of May 7 and 8 against Sony's Web site. The people involved plan to publicize all or some of the information they are able to copy from Sony's servers, which could include customer names, credit card numbers, and addresses, according to the source. The hackers claim they currently have access to some of Sony's servers. Should the planned attack succeed, it would be the latest blow in a series of devastating security breaches of Sony's servers over the past month. Source: [http://news.cnet.com/8301-31021\\_3-20060227-260.html](http://news.cnet.com/8301-31021_3-20060227-260.html)

**Hackers step up game, spread malware using Bin Laden bait.** Hackers are increasingly exploiting the death of al-Qa'ida leader by pushing malware into PCs when users fall for fake claims of photographs and video, security researchers said May 3. The shift to direct attacks follows campaigns May 2 to push fake security software, dubbed "rogueware," to both Windows and Mac users. F-Secure warned users May 3 to steer clear of spam that included the "Fotos\_[first name]\_bin\_[last name](dot)zip" archive attachment. The messages claim the file contains photos of the terrorist leader after he was shot and killed. Running the resulting Windows executable file does not display photographs, but instead launches a new banking trojan horse belonging to the 3-year-old "Banload" line, an F-Secure researcher said. The malware sniffs out online banking sessions and then tries to redirect payments to other accounts. Other security companies have also snared malware packaged with spam related to the terrorist leader. Symantec said May 3 it had found e-mail messages touting photos and video of the U.S. attack's aftermath. The messages, which so far have been written in French, Portuguese, and Spanish, lead users to a fake CNN Web site where they are told to download video. As in the F-

Secure instance, the download is, in fact, a “dropper” that in turn downloads malicious code to the Windows PC. Scams leveraging the death of al-Qa’ida leader are also spreading quickly on Facebook, researchers said. Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216382/Hackers\\_step\\_up\\_game\\_spread\\_malware\\_using\\_Bin\\_Laden\\_bait](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216382/Hackers_step_up_game_spread_malware_using_Bin_Laden_bait)

**Fake FBI emails distribute backdoor.** A new malware distribution campaign is producing rogue e-mails purporting to come from the FBI and attempting to scare users into opening malicious attachments. Cyber criminals behind this attack are hoping to scare people into believing they are being investigated by federal authorities because they accessed illegal online content. The subject of the rogue e-mails reads “you visit illegal websites” and their header is forged to appear as if they originate from an FBI address. The attachment is called document(dot)zip and according to security researchers from e-mail and Web security vendor ApprRiver, it contains a version of Bredolab. Bredolab is a trojan downloader commonly used as a malware distribution platform. In this case, it installs a backdoor on the PC through which attackers can deploy even more threats. In order to trick users into believing they are dealing with a document, the executable found inside the .zip archive bears a PDF icon. “It’s intent is to slip past your human defenses and create a permanent backdoor on your PC in order to further download malicious payloads such as keyloggers and spyware,” an AppRiver security researcher noted. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Fake-FBI-Emails-Distribute-Backdoor-198286.shtml>

**Microsoft issues first Windows Phone security update.** Microsoft released the first security update for Windows Phone 7 May 3, replicating for smartphone users a patch the company gave Windows desktop users 6 weeks ago. When the update will actually reach users is unclear. “At the time of release, the update is not available for all Windows Phone 7 customers,” Microsoft said in a security advisory. “Instead, customers will receive an on-device notification once the update is available for their phone.” The update is designed to blacklist nine digital certificates acquired by a hacker in March from Comodo, one of many companies that issues secure socket layer certificates. “This update moves the affected certificates to the ‘Untrusted Publishers’ certificate store on Windows Phone, which helps ensure that these fraudulent certificates are not inadvertently used,” Microsoft said in an explanation on its Windows Phone update history Web page. [http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216391/Microsoft\\_issues\\_first\\_Windows\\_Phone\\_security\\_update](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9216391/Microsoft_issues_first_Windows_Phone_security_update)

**Report: Vishing attack targets Skype users.** Skype users are being targeted in an ongoing voice-phishing, or —vishing, attack, according to a report by ZDNet’s Zero Day blog. Skype users reported receiving a pre-recorded call informing them that their computer had been infected with malware. In order to remove this malware users are advised to visit a site which pushes rogue AV and malware cleanup services, according to the report. So-called —vishing attacks are akin to phishing attacks and use voice messages — rather than e-mail messages or Web links — to lure unsuspecting users to malicious Web sites. Skype users report receiving calls from unknown numbers. Pre-recorded messages tell those who answer the call that they are infected with a —fatal virus and direct them to a Web address to get disinfected. Source: [http://threatpost.com/en\\_us/blogs/report-vishing-attack-targets-skype-users-050211](http://threatpost.com/en_us/blogs/report-vishing-attack-targets-skype-users-050211)

**Facebook scammers use Osama bin Laden's death as lure.** Facebook scammers are trying to capitalize on the news of the death of al-Qaeda's leader by using the event as lure to trick users into spreading spam and participating in rogue surveys. Cyber criminals wasted no time in trying to exploit it for their own benefit. On Facebook, there were several ongoing malicious campaigns using the leader's death as lure. One of them spreads through internal chat messages and advertises a video of the killing. It leads users to a Facebook-hosted page that asks them to copy and paste some JavaScript code into their browser's address bar. The rogue code misuses the user's active session to grab their friends list and send them spam messages via Facebook chat. A second, more sophisticated, death scam is using clickjacking and rogue wall messages to spread. Users are directed to a page asking them to solve a captcha-like test consisting of a simple math operation. Trying to input the answer will result in the click being hijacked and used to post a spam message on people's walls without their authorization. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/Facebook-Scammers-Use-Osama-Bin-Laden-s-Death-as-Lure-197980.shtml>

**Bogus MacDefender malware campaign targets Mac users using Google Images.** Apple computer owners are being subjected to a number of specialized malware attacks that insists Mac users download a malware version of the popular MacDefender antivirus application, infecting their computers as a result. News of the malware campaign surfaced as scores of Mac computer owners flooded the Apple Discussion Forums, asking members for advice on how to delete the MacDefender application from their systems. Early reports show users have been targeted as they search Google Images, one user stating the bogus MacDefender application was automatically downloaded as he browsed images of Piranhas. Further searching through the Apple Discussion boards suggests the malware campaign is targeting users of Apple's Safari browser, displaying warnings the user's computer has been infected with viruses that only the unofficial MacDefender application can remove. Safari users can set their browser to automatically open software they trust, it is thought that many have been infected without their knowledge by this route of attack. Upon downloading, the application asks users to pay for protection, possibly giving attackers credit card details as a result. To reassure users of the official MacDefender software, its creator has taken to the official Web site to warn users of the malware campaign. It is not thought the malware application is able to infect Mac computers with a virus, instead it is posing as scareware, which preys on disrupting the confidence of Mac users but also getting them to hand over their credit card details. Source: <http://thenextweb.com/apple/2011/05/02/bogus-macdefender-malware-campaign-targets-mac-users-using-google-images/>

## **NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS**

**(Wisconsin) Feds warn national forest visitors to beware of pot farms, armed growers.** Federal officials warned people to be on the lookout again for marijuana gardens and armed growers as they visit the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin in the summer of 2011. U.S. Forest Service officials said planting typically occurs in the spring. Visitors should look for isolated tents, garden tools, bags of fertilizer, garbage, and large, stump-filled areas. Growers often carry guns. If anyone comes across any of those signs, they should get out of the area as quickly as possible, take note of any significant landmarks, and notify police. Investigators in 2010 eradicated about 70,000 marijuana plants that a drug trafficking organization had planted in the forest. Source: <http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/3d6906b324514650afe3d31d02ffd061/WI--Pot-Farms/>

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**(Missouri) Flooding causes damage in Mark Twain National Forest.** Visitors at the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri were being warned May 3 to expect to find damage from recent flooding. Visitors could expect to find washed-out, damaged and debris covered roads, and low-water bridges, according to forest officials. Flooding conditions could continue for several days in some areas of the forest. Low-water crossing can continue to carry higher-than-normal water levels, making them dangerous to cross, according to a news release. Some low-water crossing may have been displaced by flood waters, a forest engineer said. Source: <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20110503/NEWS01/110503026/Flooding-causes-damage-Mark-Twain-National-Forest?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|Special Reports|p>

**(Arizona) Border fire now 23,000 acres.** A human-caused wildfire burning along the Mexican border near Nogales, Arizona, has grown to 23,000 acres, the Coronado National Forest reported April 30. The Bull Fire was burning on both sides of the border, about 5 miles west of Nogales, a national forest news release said. The fire has burned 11,000 acres on the Arizona side of the border. Firefighters conducted a burnout on the northeast side of the fire to get rid of excess vegetation that could help the fire spread. Firefighters were working to prevent the west side of the fire from crossing the border into Arizona, a national forest spokeswoman said. About 100 firefighters were battling the blaze, along with five engines, two heavy air tankers, three air-attack planes, and a lead plane. Crews were also using two helicopters. Source: [http://azstarnet.com/news/local/article\\_6fd3b512-d0c3-5c7c-bf77-0574098c7428.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/local/article_6fd3b512-d0c3-5c7c-bf77-0574098c7428.html)

## **POSTAL AND SHIPPING**

**(Missouri) UPS uniform warning a hoax, company says.** A hoax warning that United Parcel Service (UPS) uniforms might be in the hands of terrorists just keeps rolling along. People in southwest Missouri have been receiving e-mails advising them to be on the lookout for people using UPS uniforms purchase in bulk on e-Bay, warning they might be terrorists. The message supposedly sent by a DHS employee in 2003 is false, a UPS spokeswoman said. DHS and the FBI tried to locate a woman named in the original warning who was described as a DHS employee. An investigation revealed the woman does not exist, the spokeswoman said. The warning advises people who doubt the identity of UPS employee to ask for identification. Source: <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20110504/NEWS01/110504029/1007/UPS-uniform-warning-hoax-company-says>

## **PUBLIC HEALTH**

**(California) Measles outbreak reaches Mendocino County.** As of April, three confirmed cases of measles have been reported on the California coast in Mendocino County, according to the public health nurse with Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Public Health Branch. Since January 11, cases of measles have been reported in California, and a nationwide increase in the numbers of reported measles cases has been noted this year. Nearly all cases were linked to travelers to or from Europe or Asia or their contacts, with more than 5,000 cases alone reported this year in France, including one patient who died, and eight with neurological complications. The first measles case in Mendocino County was a French traveler who became ill while visiting the Mendocino Coast and whose infection spread to as many as two unimmunized county residents. Source: [http://www.record-bee.com/ci\\_17987563](http://www.record-bee.com/ci_17987563)

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**US takes aim at purported sex disease 'cures'.** The U.S. government said May 3 it is taking steps to remove from the market a host of online products that promise to cure HIV, herpes, chlamydia, and other sexually transmitted diseases. The products, mainly sold on the Internet but also available in some retail outlets, include names like Medavir, Herpaflor, Viruxo, C-Cure, and Never An Outbreak. They are distributed by 11 U.S. companies targeted in the joint action by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FDA and FTC "issued multiple letters to companies warning that their products violate federal law," an FDA statement said. The letters notify the 11 companies involved that they have 15 days to correct any violations, or face "legal action, including seizure and injunction, or criminal prosecution." Officials noted that they have no specific reports of injury as a result of people taking the products, and that they could not estimate how widely the products are being used by the American public. Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110503/hl\\_afp/healthsexdiseasedrugs\\_20110503185818](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110503/hl_afp/healthsexdiseasedrugs_20110503185818)

**Study finds infection control violations at 15 percent of U.S. nursing homes.** Fifteen percent of U.S. nursing homes receive deficiency citations for infection control each year, according to a study published in the May issue of the American Journal of Infection Control. Conducted by a team of researchers at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health, the study analyzed deficiency citation data collected for the purpose of Medicare/Medicaid certification between 2000 and 2007, representing approximately 16,000 nursing homes per year and a panel of roughly 100,000 observations. The records analyzed represent 96 percent of all U.S. nursing home facilities. The team discovered a strong correlation between low staffing levels and the receipt of an infection control deficiency citation. Infections are the leading cause of morbidity and mortality in nursing homes, responsible for nearly 400,000 deaths each year. Source:

<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/224044.php>

**Measles takes toll on AZ hospitals.** Some hospitals may be ill-prepared to handle a measles outbreak, researchers said. During a 2008 measles outbreak in Arizona, almost none of the patients seen at two Tucson hospitals with confirmed disease were appropriately quarantined, and about a quarter of hospital staff had no evidence of measles immunity, a U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention researcher and her colleagues reported online in the Journal of Infectious Diseases. "The outbreak was both costly and disruptive to hospitals and to the state and local health departments," they wrote. The findings came from an epidemiological analysis of an outbreak involving 14 patients that began February 12, 2008 by an infected Swiss traveler who was seen at one of the hospitals. It was the largest reported healthcare-associated measles outbreak in the United States since 1989, they wrote. A total of four patients were hospitalized and two needed intensive care treatment. None of them were vaccinated or they had unknown vaccination status. The researchers said exactly half of the cases acquired the disease in healthcare settings. They also found that of the 11 patients who sought healthcare services while infected, only 1 was masked and isolated promptly after rash onset. The other 10 patients did not receive a prompt measles diagnosis after rash onset, they found. When looking at data on healthcare providers themselves, 25 percent of workers lacked evidence of measles immunity. The hospitals spent about \$800,000 responding to and containing the seven cases in these facilities. The cost had to do with the lack of readily available immunity status for healthcare providers, as it led to unnecessary serologic testing and vaccination of those who were already immune to measles. Source:

<http://www.medpagetoday.com/InfectiousDisease/InfectionControl/26214>

## **TRANSPORTATION**

**Al-Qaida aspired to attack US train on 9/11/11.** Al-Qaida considered attacking U.S. trains on the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, according to an initial look at DVDs, computers, and other documents seized at the raid on home of the al-Qaida leader killed by U.S. troops, NBC News reported May 5. However, U.S. officials told NBC News they have no recent intelligence indicating such a plot is active. The information about a possible train plot is the first intelligence revealed from the trove of material found in the attack on his compound. Officials said they found what they call “aspirational” items — things al-Qaida operatives were interested in trying to make happen. A government advisory obtained by NBC News and sent May 3 to the rail industry said that as far back as February 2010, al-Qaida was contemplating “an operation against trains at an unspecified location in the United States on the 10th anniversary” of the September 11th attacks. One option, the advisory said, was trying to tip a train by tampering with the rails so that the train would fall off the track at either a valley or on a bridge. Such an attempt would probably only work once, the material in the leader’s house said, because tilting or tampering with the rails would be spotted, according to the advisory. Other material mentions a desire to target big mass-transit hubs, an interest long understood because of the history of al-Qaida attacks on rail targets in Spain, the United Kingdom, and India. The FBI and DHS are encouraging local governments to maintain vigilance. Currently, there are no plans to issue a terrorism alert, because there is still no specific or credible intelligence of any actual attack plan in the works, NBC News said. Source:

[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42922557/ns/world\\_news-death\\_of\\_bin\\_laden/?gt1=43001](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42922557/ns/world_news-death_of_bin_laden/?gt1=43001)

**(District of Columbia; Maryland; Virginia) Transit agencies increase security after bin Laden killing.**

Amtrak, Metro, Virginia Railway Express, and the Maryland Transit Administration planned to increase security on their transportation networks as a precaution following the killing of an al-Qaeda leader by U.S. forces. —This is not in relation to any specific threat, but out of an abundance of caution, a Metro spokeswoman said. —Customers will see an increase in uniformed officers in the system, she said, adding that other security measures less visible to the public are also in place.

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dr-gridlock/post/metro-increases-security-after-bin-laden-killing/2011/05/02/AF3wnwYF\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dr-gridlock/post/metro-increases-security-after-bin-laden-killing/2011/05/02/AF3wnwYF_blog.html)

**Cellphone restriction advancing for hazmat haulers.** Commercial drivers are already operating under a federal ban on texting while driving, and the truck and bus industries are paying close attention to additional proposals targeting driver distraction. One of those proposals, which targets hand-held use of cellphones for intrastate drivers hauling hazmat, is advancing, Land Line Magazine reported April 28. The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has jurisdiction over intrastate hazmat haulers and intends to publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register April 29, relating to hand-held use of cellphones while driving. The proposal takes into account the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s (FMCSA) final rule on texting while driving, and also the FMCSA’s proposed rule to restrict the use of hand-held phones while engaged in interstate commerce. Since 2009, federal regulators have targeted five regulatory actions involving driver distraction. The actions are based on the U.S. Department of Transportation’s aggressive efforts to curb driver distraction in the commercial sector where the agency has jurisdiction. Thirty-one states have banned texting while driving for all motorists. Source:

[http://www.landlinemag.com/todays\\_news/Daily/2011/Apr11/042511/042811-03.shtml](http://www.landlinemag.com/todays_news/Daily/2011/Apr11/042511/042811-03.shtml)

**(Massachusetts) Texting caused 2009 subway crash: NTSB.** The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) released a report April 28 detailing its investigation of a May 8, 2009, Boston, Massachusetts subway crash that caused 68 injuries and roughly \$9.6 million in damages. The board concluded it was caused by a train conductor texting his girlfriend from his cellphone while operating one of the trains. The incident involved two Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Green Line trains — locally referred to as trolleys. It forced the closure of the Government Center station and sent scores of people to hospitals after the train with the texting operator struck the train in front of it, which was stopped, waiting to enter the Park Street Station. According to NTSB investigators, the texting operator failed to observe both the yellow and red signals alerting him of the situation on the tracks “because he was engaged in the prohibited use of a wireless device, specifically text messaging, that distracted him from his duties. Contributing to the accident was the lack of a positive train control system that would have intervened to stop the train and prevent the collision.” Source:

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2011/05/01/ntsb-report-examines-train-crash-caused-by-texting-conductor.aspx?admgarea=news>

**Police presence beefed up at NY airports, WTC site.** Some local law enforcement agencies in the United States are adding security measures following the death of al-Qaeda’s leader at the hands of U.S. forces, out of what one called “an abundance of caution.” In Los Angeles, California, police said they are stepping up intelligence monitoring, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey said it will add more police May 1 at airports, bridges, and the World Trade Center site in Manhattan, New York that was destroyed in the September 11 terrorist attacks ordered and organized by the al Qaeda leader. Source: [http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/05/02/general-us-bin-laden-transit-security\\_8444768.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/05/02/general-us-bin-laden-transit-security_8444768.html)

## **WATER AND DAMS**

**(Texas) Suspect accused of illegally dumping hazardous waste.** In Houston, Texas, a slimy, dangerous mess was dumped in a retention pond, and investigators said hundreds of thousands of gallons of this stuff has been poured in areas across the city. Police said the suspect they have arrested was hauling tankers of hazardous waste and pouring it down storm drains. These are eight dump sites investigators have found in northwest Harris and Waller counties. This is not the first time the suspect has faced illegal dumping charges. He was convicted of illegally dumping solid waste in 1997. But this time, his arrest is triggering an investigation into the company he works for, New Energy Fuels — a company that advertises that it is “saving the world” with its bio-diesel fuel. It was a complaint from tenants in the west by Northwest Industrial Park in northwest Harris County that triggered the investigation. Someone had dumped hazardous materials into a retention pond there. It killed all the fish and burned skin on contact. A Houston Police Department officer said, “We have some results of the lab tests of tylenes and some other chemicals that are carcinogenic.” Investigators think the oily substance was either a by-product of the manufacturing process, or a bad batch of the bio-diesel, and the illegal dumping may have been a way to cut corners. “To do away with 6,500 gallons of hazardous material would have cost about \$15,000 to have it disposed of correctly,” the officer explained. “The driver was paid \$2,000.” Officials indicated the cleanup of the eight dump sites will cost about \$500,000. The suspect was convicted of murder in 1979 and sentenced to 20 years. His criminal

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history includes many other convictions, including assault, criminal trespassing, and illegal dumping.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=news/local&id=8109152>

## **NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS**

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** 866-885-8295(IN ND ONLY); Email: [ndslic@nd.gov](mailto:ndslic@nd.gov) ; Fax: 701-328-8175  
**State Radio:** 800-472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** 701-328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455  
**US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst:** 701-297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875 **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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